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UNINTELLIGENCE
(Rochester Democrat & Chronicle)

When national security is so tight and nonsensical that it prevents a United States senator from getting information into the hands of the Central Intelligence Agency, something is vitally wrong. One can't blame Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, from saying, disgustedly, that it might have been simpler to have telephoned the President.

What the information was, hasn't been revealed, but Sen. Church thought it important enough to send to John A. McCone, CIA director. So he wrote a letter marked "Personal — For the Director," called a Senate page, had his secretary phone the CIA and say the note was coming, sent the page on his way, and felt that he had done his duty.

Three and a half hours lat-

er the page called back to say that CIA security police had been questioning him and wouldn't even accept the letter! So he brought it back and Sen. Church sent it by mail -- and is still waiting for an acknowledgement of its receipt.

The situation is so ridiculous that it would be laughable if it weren't so serious. What if Sen. Church's information had been of vital and immediate importance?

This brainless operation ill becomes the supposedly intelligent intelligence operations of the greatest nation in the world, and causes one to think ruefully of the Bay of Pigs fiasco, based in large part on faulty intelligence reports.

If this is typical of CIA procedures -- it's time for someone -- even the President himself -- to institute some drastic

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